Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SEOUL 06830 030814Z ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2687
INFO USDOC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SEOUL 6830

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BEXP, HK, KS, TW

SUBJECT: SEMINAR ON U.S. REGULATIONS ON CONSUMER PRODUCTS

REF: HONG KONG 10303

- 1. COMOFF SPOKE WITH REPRESENTATIVE OF FEDERATION OF KOREAN INDUSTRIES (FKI) REGARDING SUBJECT SEMINAR. TOGETHER WITH ITS COUNTERPART ORGANIZATION IN TAIPEI, FKI HAS CONTRIBUTED FUNDS TO THE COSTS OF PUTTING ON THE SEMINAR. THE ORGANIZATION IS EXPECTING THAT AFTER THE PARTICIPANTS CONCLUDE THE SEMINAR IN HONG KONG, THEY WOULD GO TO TAIPEI, AND THEN TO SEOUL WHERE A TWO\$AY MEETING WOULD BE HELD (SEPT. 14-15).
- 2. FKI REP ADMITTED TO SOME CONFUSION IN A LETTER HE HAD RECEIVED THIS DATE FROM HONG KONG ORGANIZERS. IT WAS ORIGINALLY EXPECTED THAT THERE WOULD BE SEVEN GUEST SPEAKERS WHO WOULD BE EXPERTS IN THE FIELDS OF ELECTRIC PRODUCTS SAFETY, ELECTRONICS PRODUCTS SAFETY, AND TOY SAFETY. LATEST INFO FROM HONG KONG WAS THAT THERE WOULD BE FOUR GUEST SPEAKERS AND THAT EMPHASIS WOULD BE ON TOY SAFETY. THREE OF THOSE FOUR ARE SAID TO BE CPSC STAFF MEMBERS.
- 3. FKI HAS PROMOTED THE SEMINAR TO ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS, UNCLASSIFIED

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ELECTRONICS PRODUCTS AND TOY INDUSTRY TRADE ASSOCIATIONS. ALL INDICATED AN EAGERNESS TO LEARN ABOUT U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY REGULATIONS. FKI BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT EMPHASIS ON TOY SAFETY WILL DIMINISH INTEREST IN THE SEMINAR AS THE KOREAN TOY INDUSTRY IS NOT AS LARGE AS THAT IN HONG KONG AND TAIPEI. FKI WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE EMPHASIS ON ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS PRODUCT SAFETY.

- 4. FKI WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE ADDRESSES OF THE GUEST SPEAKERS SO THAT INVITATIONAL LETTERS MAY BE SENT.
- 5. POST CONSIDERS SUBJECT SEMINAR TO BE WORTHWHILE. POST ALSO CONCURS WITH FKI THAT OVEREMPHASIS ON TOY SAFETY WOULD DIMINISH USEFULNESS OF SEMINAR AND KOREA INTEREST. GLEYSTEEN

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